

WASHINGTON – America's homeless veterans will see \$75 million for approximately 7,500 new veterans housing vouchers under an appropriations bill passed today by the House of Representatives. U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell and the House approved H.R. 3074, the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Agreement, with a bipartisan 270 to 147 vote.

"There is a homelessness epidemic among our nation's veterans," said Mitchell. "One of the primary reasons is because our veterans do not always get the mental health care that they need, and we're working to address that. But we also need to do a better job of making clear that those who serve our country come first. These vouchers don't solve the problem, but they go a long way in addressing critical needs of those veterans who need us most."

A recent report indicated that more than one-quarter of the nation's homeless are veterans. According to the East Valley Tribune, "the National Alliance to End Homelessness estimated that close to 4,000 Arizona veterans are without homes. And more than 11,000 others are considered to have a 'severe housing cost burden.'" [Source:

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

, Nov. 8, 2007,

[East Valley Tribune](#)

, Nov. 13, 2007]

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has identified more than 1,500 homeless who are veterans of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. [Source: [Associated Press](#) , Nov. 7, 2007]